

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5728

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, US, GW

SUBJECT: NORTHAG BRIGADE STATIONING

REF: STATE 009695 DTG 150008Z JAN. 76

1. ON JANUARY 15 I MET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER TO CONVEY THE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL REGARDING THE NORTHAG BRIGADE STATIONING, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO AN EARLY RELOCATION.

2. LEBER WELCOMED THE US DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH THE STATIONING PROJECT. HE SAID THE FRG IS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TO WORK OUT THE FINANCIAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG COULD NOT UNILATERALLY ASSUME THE COSTS INVOLVED, BUT RATHER THAT SOME COST-SHARING FORMULA WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE US AND FRG. LEBER SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY RUMSFELD IN HAMBURG NEXT WEEK.

3. LEBER RECALLED THAT THUS FAR ONLY PLANNING PROBLEMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROPOSED STATIONING HAD BEEN
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ADDRESSED, AND THAT THE KEY DECISIONS ON FINANCING HAD

NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED. IN THIS REGARD, LEBER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO INVOLVE OUR RESPECTIVE FINANCIAL AUTHORITIES. FINALLY, LEBER COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO AVOID AN INTERIM FINANCIAL SOLUTION, AND THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF REACHING A FINAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH, ULTIMATELY, WOULD BE MORE ECONOMICAL FOR BOTH SIDES.

4. COMMENT: LEBER WAS CLEARLY UNEASY ABOUT THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE STATIONING PLAN. THERE IS APPARENTLY NO MONEY IN THE FRG DEFENSE BUDGET WHICH HE COULD MAKE AVAILABLE.

5. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOW GIVE THOUGHT TO RELATING THE OFFSET FOLLOW-ON AND BRIGADE STATIONING QUESTIONS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY PROCEEDING AT DIFFERENT PACES. FROM OUR STANDPOINT, THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR BOTH AGREEMENTS IS REALLY ONE AND THE SAME. LEBER WOULD STILL LIKE TO HAVE SOME SORT OF MULTILATERAL COVER FOR THE STATIONING PROJECT, ALTHOUGH THE FRG MIGHT BE WILLING TO PICK UP THE MAJOR SHARE OF THE TAB. ON THIS POINT, PERHAPS SECRETARY RUMSFELD CAN FURTHER PERSUADE LEBER THAT MULTILATERAL FUNDS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IF IN FACT IT IS THE US JUDGMENT THAT SUCH A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS NOT FEASIBLE.

6. LEBER WILL NOW HAVE NEARLY A WEEK TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO THE NPG MEETING. I HOPE WE WILL HAVE A CLEARER IDEA FOLLOWING THE HAMBURG MEETING AS TO HOW WE CAN BEST PROCEED IN THIS MATTER.
HILLENBRAND

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